

Phase 3 – A Child’s War

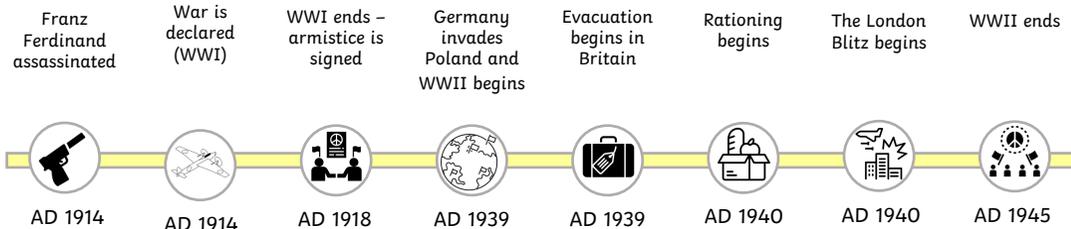
Who do we Learn About in Key Stage 2?



The Blitz

The Blitz was a sustained aerial bombing of Britain by Nazi Germany, which took place between September 1940 and May 1941. It was a very significant part of the Second World War. Weeks of sustained bombing raids killed thousands of people and destroyed many homes and cities.

World Wars Timeline



Causes of the First World War

On 28th June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne) and his wife were assassinated by a Serbian, Gavrilo Princip. Austria-Hungary gained support from Germany and used the assassination as an excuse to declare war on Serbia. Russia then joined Serbia to support them. Many countries had previously developed alliances and so they stepped in to support those fighting and World War One began.



At that time, many countries wanted a larger empire, like France and Britain had, especially Germany. They believed that having a large empire would make them strong and powerful in Europe. Therefore, the events leading up to the First World War provided a good excuse for countries such as Germany to pursue their desire for an empire.

Causes of WWII

The Treaty of Versailles was a peace agreement that Germany were forced to sign at the end of WWI. They had to take responsibility for the war and pay a huge amount of money and resources back to other countries to compensate them for loss and damage during the war. Germany also lost territory and was forbidden from having a large army. This left Germany and its people poor and struggling. They were angry at having to sign the treaty. Adolf Hitler took advantage of the German people’s feelings to become the leader of Germany, formed alliances with Italy and Japan, and started building up Germany’s armed forces. He eventually invaded Poland on 1st September 1939. Britain and France had no choice but to act and declared war on Germany on 3rd September 1939.



Evacuation

During WWII, many people were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. Evacuees were mainly children, but mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities were also evacuated, as were teachers and helpers to look after the child evacuees. Over 3.5 million people were evacuated. Some were sent to stay with relatives, but many went to live with strangers. Evacuees travelled by train and took few personal belongings. They all had to carry a gas mask, ration book and identity card. Most host families treated the evacuees as part of their own family, but some did not treat them as well.



Key Vocabulary



ALLIANCE: A group of countries or political parties that are formally united and working together because they have similar aims.



ARMISTICE: An agreement between countries who are at war with one another to stop fighting and to discuss ways of making peace.



ASSASSINATION: The act of deliberately killing someone, especially a public figure, for political or religious reasons



INVADE: When a foreign army enters another country by force.



PROPAGANDA: information, often inaccurate, which a political organization publishes/ broadcasts in order to influence people.



RATIONING: Limiting the amount of food, water, petrol, or other necessary substances that each person is allowed to have or buy when there is not enough of them.



REPARATION: Sums of money that are paid after a war by the defeated country for the damage and injuries it caused in other countries.



TREATY: A written agreement between countries in which they agree to do a particular thing or to help each other.